

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 7 and 29-34 without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter recited therein.

Please amend claims 1 and 13 as follows:

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Q2 1. (Amended) An apparatus for receiving splice data for each of a plurality of optical fiber splices, each of the plurality of optical fiber splices being uniquely identified by at least one of a plurality of splice indicia, the apparatus comprising:

a data interface for receiving the splice data; and

a data storage device coupled with the data interface, for receiving the splice data and the splice indicia from the data interface and for storing the splice data and the splice indicia, wherein the splice data includes cross reference information representing a cross reference between one of the plurality of optical fiber splices and another one of the plurality of optical fiber splices.

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Q3 13. (Amended) An apparatus for selecting splice data for an optical fiber splice based on a selected splice indicium from a plurality of unique splice indicia, the selected splice indicium uniquely identifying the optical fiber splice, the apparatus comprising:

an input data interface for receiving the selected splice indicium;

a data storage device coupled with the input data interface for storing the splice data and the plurality of splice indicia;

a processor coupled with the data storage device for retrieving from the data storage

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device the splice data associated with the selected splice indicium; and  
an output data interface for outputting the splice data.

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Please add new claims 41-51 as follows:

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-- 41. (New) A method for retrieving splice data for a splice, the method comprising the steps of:

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reading a first splice indicium from a first splice;

comparing the first splice indicium with a plurality of stored splice indicia including the first splice indicium, each of the stored splice indicia having associated splice data; and  
retrieving splice data associated with the first splice indicium.

42. (New) A data collection apparatus for retrieving splice data for a splice, the apparatus comprising:

a reader configured to read a first splice indicium from a first splice;

a storage device configured to store splice data for a plurality of splices including the first splice;

a processor coupled to the reader and the storage device and configured to receive the splice indicium and to retrieve splice data from the storage device associated with the first splice indicium; and

an output data interface configured to output the retrieved splice data.

43. (New) The data collection apparatus of claim 42, wherein the reader is a bar code reader.

44. (New) A portable data collection apparatus for retrieving splice data for a splice, the apparatus being in communication with a storage device storing splice data for a plurality of splices including a first splice, the apparatus comprising:

a reader configured to read a first splice indicium from the first splice;

a processor coupled to the reader and configured to receive the splice indicium and to retrieve splice data from the storage device associated with the first splice indicium; and

a portable power source powering the processor.

45. (New) The portable data collection apparatus of claim 44, further including the storage device, wherein the storage device is in wireless communication with the processor.

46. (New) The portable data collection apparatus of claim 44, further including the storage device, wherein the portable power source powers the storage device, and the storage device and the processor are at least partially disposed within a same housing.

47. (New) The portable data collection apparatus of claim 44, further including a data interface coupled to the processor, the data interface being removably connectible with a data interface of an optical fiber splicer.

48. (New) The portable data collection apparatus of claim 44, wherein the portable power source is a battery.

49. (New) A method for retrieving splice data for a splice from a subset of splices, the method comprising the steps of:

selecting the subset of splices from a larger set of available splices, the subset including a first splice;

transferring a pre-stored plurality of splice indicia associated with the subset of splices, and splice data associated therewith, to a first storage device;

reading a first splice indicium from the first splice;

comparing the first splice indicium with the plurality of splice indicia stored in the first storage device; and

retrieving splice data from the first storage device associated with the first splice indicium.

50. (New) The method of claim 49, wherein the step of transferring includes transferring the pre-stored plurality of splice indicia and associated splice data from a second storage device to the first storage device, the method further comprising the step of uncoupling the first storage device from the second storage device prior to reading the first splice indicium.

51. (New) The method of claim 49, wherein the set of available splices are associated with a plurality of optical fiber systems, and the subset of splices are all associated with a same optical fiber system.--